

**California  
Department of Conservation  
2004-07 Watershed Coordinator Grant Program**



*South Fork Battle Creek*

**Eighth Quarter Report  
December 30, 2004**

**California Bay-Delta Authority  
Interagency Agreement #4600002373**



## Summary of Grant Program

This report covers the period of July 1, 2004 to September 30, 2004. This was the first full reporting quarter for the majority of the watershed coordinators as many were hired last quarter.

Information received from the grantees has been reviewed by the DOC staff and is presented in this report. Also included in this report are three tables. Table 1 summarizes the coordinators' accomplishments and activities during the current quarter. Table 2 summarizes the total amount of additional funding obtained through the efforts of the coordinators since the start of the grant program, and Table 3 lists the political districts of each grantee.

The grantee reports are summarized as individual fact sheets and are listed alphabetically by grantee name. For each grant, the watershed background, benefits to the watershed, and benefits to the CALFED Program are listed. Please refer to the individual fact sheets for details.

We are pleased to report that the main accomplishments of the watershed coordinators for the second quarter period are as follows:

- ◆ Over **\$6.2 million** in additional watershed funding has been secured by the coordinators since the start of the grant program. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators.
- ◆ 18 watershed cleanup events were held, resulting in the removal of hundreds of pounds of trash from local watersheds and involving dozens of community volunteers.
- ◆ 29 outreach events, focusing on educating the public about local watershed issues, were held at public venues such as county fairs and local festivals.
- ◆ 21 restoration projects were in progress or completed. Restoration projects included bank stabilizations, fish ladder installations, barrier removals, etc.
- ◆ 16 workshop/training sessions were conducted on a range of conservation issues including water monitoring, non-native invasive species, and the agricultural waiver program.

During this quarter, DOC contracted with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to offer a series of training workshops for watershed coordinators. These workshops will cover watershed stewardship, group facilitation, and wildlife conservation corridors. Dennis Bowker from CBDA's Watershed Program, and Wendell Gilgert, NRCS State Biologist, will conduct the training sessions in the coming months.

**Table 1: Quarterly Accomplishments**

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Watershed / Location</b>
Public Education / Outreach Events Conducted	29	
Watershed Cleanup Events Conducted	18	Debs Park, Alhambra Creek, Strentzel Meadow, Deer Creek, Santa Monica Bay, San Joaquin River, Lake Berryessa, Lake Solano, Lower Clear Creek
Workshop / Training Events Conducted	16	
Watershed Assessments / Plans Worked On or Completed	11	Pit River, Arroyo Grande Creek, Lower Deer Creek, Stony Creek, San Jose Creek, Carmen Creek, Tehama West Watershed, Sacramento River
Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Programs Created or Data Collected	13	Upper Mokelumne, Traverse Creek, Jones Fork Silver Creek, Wench Creek, South Fork Rubicon River, North Fork Upper Merced, Lake Isabella, Wolf Creek, Sacramento Headwaters, Cow Creek
K-12 Education Curriculum Developed	7	
Watershed Websites Created / Updated	7	
Restoration Projects Planned or Conducted	21	Chorro Creek, Little Deer Creek, Sulpher Creek, Mission Creek, Carpenteria Creek, Carmen Valley, Stuart Creek, Jack London State Historic Park, Cache Creek
Watershed Materials (brochures, maps, newsletters, etc.) Published	10	
Watershed Tours Conducted	5	Butte Creek, Upper Kirker Creek, Malibu Creek, Calaveras River, Rabbit Hill Park
Conservation Plans Developed	7	
Best Management Practices Implemented	9	
Invasive Weed Removal Projects	9	
New Stakeholder Groups Established	7	
Technical Reports / Databases Created	7	
Regional Coordination Teams / Technical Review Committees Created	5	
Fuel Break Projects Worked On or Completed	4	Bear Creek, Deer Creek, South Yuba
Water Irrigation Research, Monitoring or Data Collection Projects Worked On	4	

**Table 2: Additional Funding Requested/Awarded To Date**

<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Cumulative Requested</b>	<b>Cumulative Awarded</b>
Alpine County	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arroyo Seco Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy	\$6,400.00	\$0.00
Butte County RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Central Modoc RCD	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Central Sierra RC&D	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chowchilla-Red Top RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Coastal San Luis RCD	\$414,009.00	\$16,000.00
Colusa County RCD	\$1,084.00	\$20,513.00
Contra Costa Public Works Department	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Contra Costa RCD	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Dear Creek Watershed Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00
Earth Resource Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00
East Merced RCD	\$2,300,000.00	\$2,350,000.00
El Dorado Irrigation District	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fall River RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Deer Creek	\$680,000.00	\$600.00
Georgetown Divide RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Glenn County RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council	\$165,945.00	\$128,535.00
Mariposa County RCD	\$0.00	\$470,905.00
Mojave Desert / Mountain RC&D	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority	\$0.00	\$0.00
Napa County RCD	\$221,267.00	\$818,598.00
Nevada County RCD	\$2,736.00	\$0.00
Placer County RCD	\$0.00	\$554,500.00
RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains	\$25,000.00	\$9,920.00
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	\$0.00	\$0.00
San Francisquito Creek JPA	\$24,231.00	\$0.00
San Joaquin County RCD	\$0.00	\$1,370,000.00
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust	\$0.00	\$0.00
Santa Barbara County Water Agency	\$33,000.00	\$0.00
Sierra Valley RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sloughhouse RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solano RCD	\$250,500.00	\$215,000.00
Sonoma Ecology Center	\$899,708.00	\$38,000.00
Stockton East Water District	\$901,371.00	\$0.00
Tehama County RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Upper Putah Creek Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00
Upper Sacramento River Exchange	\$325,000.00	\$12,887.00
Urban Watershed Project	\$0.00	\$0.00
West Lake RCD	\$1,000.00	\$150,775.00
Western Shasta RCD (Sac-Upper Clear)	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Table 2: Additional Funding Requested/Awarded To Date**

<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Cumulative Requested</b>	<b>Cumulative Awarded</b>
Western Shasta RCD (Upper Cow-Battle)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Westside RCD	\$115,000.00	\$58,500.00
Yolo County RCD (Lower Cache)	\$114,500.00	\$21,500.00
Yolo County RCD (Lower Sac)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yuba County RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,505,751.00</b>	<b>\$6,288,033.00</b>

**Table 3: Grants by Political Districts**

<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>State Assembly District</b>	<b>State Senate District</b>	<b>U.S. Congressional District</b>
Alpine County	1	1	3
Arroyo Seco Foundation	44 / 45 / 46	20 / 21 / 22	29
Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy	2	4	2
Butte County RCD	2 / 3	4	2
Central Modoc RCD	2	1	4
Central Sierra RC & D	10 / 25	1	3
Chowchilla-Red Top RCD	25 / 29	14 / 12	19
Coastal San Luis RCD	33	18	23
Colusa County RCD	2	4	2
Contra Costa Public Works Department	15	7	7
Contra Costa RCD	11 / 14 / 15	7	7
Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy	2	4	2
Earth Resource Foundation	70 / 71	33 / 35	46
East Merced RCD	14	12	19
El Dorado Irrigation District	4	1	4
Fall River RCD	2	4	2
Friends of Deer Creek	3	1	4
Georgetown Divide RCD	4	1	4
Glenn County RCD	2	4	2
L.A. & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council	46	22	34
Mariposa County RCD	25	14	19
Mojave Desert/Mountain RC&D Council	32 / 34	18	22
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	22	24	31
Napa County RCD	7	2 / 1	1
Nevada County RCD	3	4	4
Placer County RCD	3 / 4	4	4
RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains	41	23	30
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	1 / 3	4 / 6	5
San Francisquito Creek JPA	21	11	14
San Joaquin County RCD	10 / 26	5 / 14	11
San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust	29	14	19
Santa Barbara County Water Agency	35	18	23
Sierra Valley RCD	3	1	4
Sloughhouse RCD	4 / 10 / 15	1 / 5	3
Solano RCD	7 / 8	2 / 5	10
Sonoma Ecology Center	6 / 7	2	1
Stockton East Water District	17 / 26	14	18
Tehama County RCD	2	4	2
Upper Putah Creek Stewardship	1	2	1
Upper Sacramento River Exchange	2	4	2
Urban Watershed Project	13	3	8
West Lake RCD	1	2	1
Western Shasta RCD	2	4	2
Westside RCD	30	16	19
Yolo County RCD	2 / 8	5	1
Yuba County RCD	2 / 3	4	2

# Arroyo Seco Foundation

## Los Angeles Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$214,360

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

### **Background**

The Arroyo Seco watershed is located within the larger Los Angeles Watershed. It connects the San Gabriel Mountains with downtown Los Angeles. Over the years, water consumption has increased dramatically, creating tremendous stress on the watershed. In addition, creeks and rivers throughout the watershed are contaminated because of algae, fecal coliform, trash, and commercial activities. This has resulted in the upper portion of the watershed being designated a Superfund site and caused the closure of nine of Pasadena's wells. As the population increases, so will the need to address these critical issues.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Worked with North East Trees to identify major probable pollution sources for water quality study.
- ◆ Partnered with Chandler School and Pasadena Recreation and Parks Commission to develop watershed educational materials.
- ◆ Cosponsored and developed the Water History Exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History. The exhibit will be featured from September 4, 2004 to January 9, 2005.
- ◆ Represented watershed issues at various public meetings, such as the Los Angeles City Council Committee on the Los Angeles, the Urban Forest Advisory Committee in Pasadena, and the Pasadena Recreation and Parks Commission.
- ◆ Supported watershed clean-up activities for local organizations including the Debs Park event for National Public Lands Day.



### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** - Assisted in developing the Altadena Workshop on foothill watershed issues. In addition, set up a Water History Exhibit at Pasadena Museum of History to educate stakeholders about the watershed.

**Drinking Water Quality** - Worked with County Department of Public Works to complete water quality baseline study.

**Water Use Efficiency** - Collected information from water agencies about conservation programs and incentive rebates.

**Science** - Developed a plan in conjunction with a professor at California State University of Los Angeles to collect habitat and stream data.

**Ecosystem Restoration** - Supported Pasadena's Arroyo Seco stream restoration and appropriate use of native habitat.

# **Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy**

## **Upper Cow-Battle Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$87,918

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

### **Background**

Throughout the watershed, streams provide habitat for a variety of fish including steelhead and Chinook salmon. These species and others are facing tremendous pressures from increased sedimentation and a reduction in habitat. In the event of a fire, excessive fuel loads would not only destroy wildlife habitats but would also affect livestock grazing, farming operations, and local homeowners. The diversity of the watershed requires a coordinated, collaborative effort to ensure that issues are addressed on a comprehensive basis.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Worked with diverse groups, including the Fire Safe Council and the Greater Battle Creek Working Group, to address critical issues within the watershed.
- ◆ Upgraded and updated the organization's website ([www.battle-creek.net](http://www.battle-creek.net)). Provided local stakeholders with information including a report on the Defensible Fuel Profile Zone.
- ◆ Facilitated the annual Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy meeting.
- ◆ Conducted outreach activities including setting up a booth at the Manton Apple Festival
- ◆ Applied for funds from the Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for fuel break maintenance.



### **Benefits to CALFED Program**



**Watershed Management** - Acted as liaison between local landowners and the Bureau of Reclamation who wanted to conduct surveys on private lands. Active member of the Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group (GBCWWG), which is composed of various stakeholder groups and government agencies involved or affected by the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. Acts as the liaison between the GBCWWG and the local community. Participated in meetings with the Tehama County Fire Safe Council. Updated the Battle Creek website to provide information on watershed issues important to residents within the watershed.



# **Butte County RCD**

## **Mill-Big Chico / Upper Butte / Lower Butte Watersheds**



**Amount Funded:** \$218,338

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$8,350

### **Background**

The upper portions of the watersheds are primarily forested lands highly susceptible to fires. Throughout the region, communities are growing rapidly exerting tremendous pressure on the environment. Both water quality and wildlife habitat is being severely degraded. There is tremendous concern about the Butte Basin Aquifer, which may not be recharging as rapidly as in the past. Water quality, invasive weeds, range management, and excessive fuel loads are only some of the issues that need to be addressed. Recognizing that significant challenges face the community, several organizations came together to form a partnership to address these critical issues.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Partnered with Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance to implement an unimproved road rehabilitation demonstration project.
- ◆ Held the first stakeholder meeting in over a year for the Little Chico Creek Watershed Group.
- ◆ Planned an educational workshop that highlights cover crops and filter strips.
- ◆ Conducted outreach activities within the local community for landowners to sign up for next year's Mobile Irrigation Lab Program.
- ◆ Discussed the establishment of a monitoring program for stretches of the Gold Run and Clear Creek on tribal lands with the Mechoopda Nation.
- ◆ Developed a presentation and brochure on dirt road rehabilitation.



*Oak Woodlands in Butte County. Working on a Conservation Plan to enhance range management.*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** - Collaborated with numerous governmental agencies and watershed groups on local projects. Partnered with USDA/NRCS Earth Teams. Began work to establish citizen water quality monitoring programs within all the watersheds. Conducted a tour of Butte Creek to highlight significant issues and discuss potential courses of action. The tour was well attended and provided an ideal opportunity to network and establish contacts.

**Water Quality** - Participated in Sacramento River Watershed Program's Designing and Maintaining a Water Quality Monitoring Program. Continued to promote the benefits of road sediment control within the watershed.

**Water Use Efficiency** - Promoted the Tehama County Mobile Irrigation Lab Program. Local stakeholders were offered educational opportunities through the combined Irrigation Efficiency and Agricultural Pump Efficiency Program.

# Central Modoc RCD

## Upper Pit Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$196,330

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date to Date:**

### **Background**

The Pit River Watershed is a significant tributary to the Sacramento River. The main stem Pit River has been identified by the EPA as impaired due to nutrient loading, low dissolved oxygen, and high temperatures. Sediment is also a concern. A watershed-wide assessment is under way to collect data to support initiation of a comprehensive watershed plan.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Facilitated public outreach at two of the most heavily attended annual local events: the Modoc County Fair and the Migratory Bird Festival. Several key contacts with new landowners of large local ranches were made.
- ◆ A full summer of water quality data collection was completed.
- ◆ Improved communication and cooperation with the Pit River

Tribe and the local X-L Ranch Council. The coordinator now has a regular place on the monthly X-L Tribal Council meeting agenda.

- ◆ Completed negotiations for a Proposition 13, Phase III Grant Agreement with the SWRCB for \$700,000.
- ◆ Finalized a cost-share partnership agreement between the district and the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge for a \$50,000 match commitment to the Proposition 13, Phase III grant.



*Associate Coordinator Blair Parrott reads pH and electroconductivity of water in Turner Creek as part of the district's water quality monitoring program.*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – The coordinator assisted with the completion of the Pit River Watershed Assessment for the Pit River Watershed Alliance.

# Central Sierra RC&D

## Upper Mokelumne Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$311,591

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

### **Background**

The watershed's condition varies from pristine riparian habitats in some locations to other areas that have been significantly impacted by deforestation. Also, past practices such as gold mining have adversely affected the quality of water and continue to pose problems for wildlife and people. Residential communities are growing rapidly, exerting pressure on the environment. Recreational users, commercial entities, and agricultural operations add to the impact on the watershed. The diversity of interests requires a coordinated approach to ensure that resources remain available for future generations.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Provided guidance and training for citizen-based water quality monitoring activities with Ebbett's Pass Forest Watch volunteers.
- ◆ Worked with Sloughhouse RCD to assist Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and Shenandoah Valley irrigators.
- ◆ Provided input to the Calaveras County Water District on land use and erosion control activities.
- ◆ Conducted a workshop on the SWRQCB Agricultural Waiver requirements.
- ◆ Presented information at the Fall Harvest Festival in Glencoe and at the Lumberjack Days in West Point.
- ◆ Completed Draft QAPP for Citizen based Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program.
- ◆ Secured water quality monitoring equipment grant from Sierra Nevada Alliance to support volunteer monitoring activities in the watershed.



*Elementary students learn about water quality monitoring along the West Fork of the Carson River*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Water Quality/Watershed Management** - Established local Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program for the watershed. Held four meetings to provide information to landowners on the Ag Irrigation Waiver Program. Assisted Amador RCD and Calaveras County UC Extension Agent with State Ag Irrigation Waiver Program for Amador and Calaveras County Irrigators. Reviewed historic water and watershed quality data to identify potential and current water quality impacts, identify additional water quality assessment needs, and provide input and direction to concerned stakeholders. Identified and compiled a list of priority projects and currently seeking funding. Participated in public outreach by providing educational materials to stakeholders. Worked with local water agencies and water managers to identify watershed assessment issues.

# **Chowchilla-Red Top RCD**

Upper Chowchilla-Upper Fresno / Middle  
San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds



**Amount Funded:** \$176,430

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

## **Background**

Abundant wildlife, diverse topography, and cascading rivers epitomize these watersheds. Increased population densities, past practices, and an infusion of noxious weeds jeopardize their long-term health. Like many forested areas, fuel loads are growing at an alarming rate and rivers are being inundated by sedimentation. It is imperative that a coordinated, collaborative approach be taken to address these issues. The watershed coordinator will ensure that stakeholders from both watersheds work together to address the natural resource concerns of the local community.

## **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Established a website that provides residents with information about the watersheds.
- ◆ Created watershed maps that can be used to inform and educate stakeholders. The maps show the topography, major highways and towns, and the ownership of land (private or public).
- ◆ Worked with Yosemite High School to involve students in a “Train the Trainer” Citizen Water Monitoring Program.
- ◆ Interacted with watershed coordinators from the Upper Merced, Millerton Lake, and Upper Chattahoochee watersheds to ensure a coordinated, collaborative approach throughout the region.



*Watershed Coordinator explaining watershed map at community outreach meeting*

## **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** - Distributed an informational handout “50 Ways to Conserve Water” to stakeholders. Worked with partners to develop a database of local stakeholders that will be used for outreach activities. Provided information at two community outreach meetings. Topics included: water conservation, noxious weeds, and living in the foothills. Currently, contacting schools to start working with the Science and Agriculture classes, and the East Program on water-based projects such as Citizen Water Monitoring.



## Coastal San Luis RCD Central Coast Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$165,977

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$16,000

### **Background**

There are three active and significant areas within the Central Coast Watershed: Morro Bay, Arroyo Grande Creek and San Luis Obispo Creek. These water bodies suffer to a greater or lesser extent from pathogens, siltation, metals, nutrients, and turbidity. A combination of agricultural practices, resource extraction, land disposal, and urban runoff contribute to these conditions.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Coordinated the NRCS PSIAC Training Workshop in the Los Osos Valley watershed. The workshop allowed participants to become familiar with and use the PSIAC method to estimate sedimentation in sub-watersheds.
- ◆ Attended the Steelhead Coalition meeting in September and provided comments for project selection criteria for the San Luis Land Conservancy Fish Passage Grant.
- ◆ Coordinated analysis, comments and changes from many reviewers to produce the final Scope of Work for the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Assessment and Flooding Alternatives Analysis. This project is scheduled to begin in November 2004.
- ◆ The Pennington Creek Highway 1 Baffle Modification project was approved by all regulatory agencies for implementation in October 2004. This project involved collaboration between the RCD, Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, Caltrans and the California Conservation Corps.
- ◆ Seven conservation plans were developed, and nine BMPs were installed on several properties in the district. The BMPs will help to reduce sedimentation, non-point pollution and improve water quality in three watersheds.



*Chorro Creek Bank  
Stabilization Project*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – Coordinated and collaborated with CARCD staff regarding planning for the statewide RCD conference. Improvement to ecosystem quality, water quality and quantity, and soil conservation will be featured topics. The coordinator also helped to plan the UCCE/NRCS Farm Water Quality Planning Short Course for Floriculture/Nursery growers (July 28-30). The coordinator assisted in recruiting presenters for the course, and made a presentation illustrating the projects the RCD can facilitate in greenhouse/nursery settings. The course provided information to growers on how to improve water quality protection, implement tailwater return and graywater irrigation projects, and install buffer strips and critical area plantings.

**Drinking Water Quality** – Completed a bank stabilization project on Chorro Creek that will reduce sedimentation. With the State Water Project that serves the City of Morro Bay shutting down for maintenance during November/December, the city will rely, in part, on Chorro Valley wells for the municipal water supply.

**Colusa County RCD**  
**Upper Cache Watershed**  
(Sub Watershed Bear Creek)



**Amount Funded:** \$127,317

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$20,513

**Background**

The 24-mile Bear Creek drainage is a rare aquatic ecosystem that supports four native fishes, western pond turtles, and yellow-legged frogs. It is an important corridor for neotropical migratory birds, and biological inventories have documented 33 other special status plants and animals. The California Unified Watershed Assessment has identified several areas of concern for Bear Creek: non-functioning riparian communities, habitat degradation from non-native species, and impaired water quality.

**Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Coordinated tamarisk control on three properties in cooperation with landowners, American Land Conservancy, and the California Rangeland Trust.
- ◆ Presented a stewardship slideshow to the management team for the Wilbur Hot Springs Resort, a key stakeholder in the watershed. The management team had undertaken a strategic planning effort and was developing its mission statement. The presentation included a slide show of watershed elements, goals for the Bear Creek Watershed Restoration Program, ecosystem management options, and funding opportunities.
- ◆ Completed the first draft of a major invasive plant control and revegetation project for the Bear River Valley Ranch.
- ◆ Helped to complete the first year of saline water irrigation research for native grass enhancement at Wilbur Hot Springs in cooperation with NRCS and the resort.
- ◆ Supervised the monitoring and data collection of a wick irrigation system for establishing native shrubs, trees, and vines in cooperation with the American Land Conservancy.

**Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – As a member of the technical advisory committee, the coordinator participated in a BLM-sponsored meeting to address management issues on the newly established Cache Creek Natural Area. The coordinator also initiated discussions with several stakeholders in the Sulpher Creek watershed on mercury issues, land stewardship issues, livestock grazing management, and some possible remediation measures.

# Contra Costa Public Works Department San Joaquin Delta Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$215,959

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

## **Background**

This is one of the fastest urbanizing watersheds in California. Consequently, ever increasing amounts of polluted run-off is entering the Delta – the water supply for over 20 million people. The watershed is also home to numerous unique special status terrestrial plant and animal species. Agriculture is an important element of the landscape, economy and cultural heritage. Recognizing the need for cooperation, Contra Costa County is implementing a new Stormwater Management Plan. However, much more needs to be done to address critical issues such as flooding, erosion, and diminishing habitat.

## **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Applied for NOAA grant in partnership with Save The Bay to conduct a community based restoration program to restore habitat in the Marsh Creek Watershed.
- ◆ Helped organize the largest Marsh Creek Watershed clean-up event with over 350 community members. More than 6,000 lbs. of trash was collected.
- ◆ Worked with local developer to minimize impact of new development on the environment.
- ◆ Added 50 more names to the volunteer database, bringing the total to over 900 people.
- ◆ Set up and staffed outreach table at the Brentwood Farmer's market.



*Volunteers for Marsh Creek Clean-up*

## **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** - Held first Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed group meeting. Fourteen people attended. Focused on how to protect and improve the Marsh Creek Watershed. A steering committee was formed to conduct outreach activities and to educate local residents.

**Water Management/Water Use Efficiency/Drinking Water Quality** - Met with landowners to discuss goals and objectives of implementing beneficial management practices to improve water quality from agricultural runoff.

## Contra Costa RCD Suisun Bay Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$188,730

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$1,800

### **Background**

The Suisun Bay watershed includes rangeland, protected wetlands, state and regional parks, and urban areas. Invasive non-native plants are a widespread problem in the watershed, decreasing upland and riparian habitat value. Trash and illegal dumping impair creeks throughout the region, and several creeks also have serious erosion and sedimentation problems. Water quality is also a significant concern as the California Unified Watershed Assessment has the watershed listed as a Category 1 priority.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Coordinated Kirker and Alhambra Creek watershed group meetings.
- ◆ Assisted Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition to coordinate and conduct outreach for a new community restoration effort in the Alhambra Creek Watershed.
- ◆ Collaborated on a grant to support Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition.
- ◆ Assisted in a volunteer effort to survey Kirker Creek with GPS technology.
- ◆ Developed, coordinated and conducted outreach for a Creek Cleanup Day on Alhambra Creek, a hike to discuss natural resource issues in Upper Kirker Creek, six restoration days at Strentzel Meadow, and an outing to collect native plant seeds on Mt. Wanda.



*Los Medanos College students conduct  
GPS mapping at Dow Wetlands  
on 9/17/04*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – The coordinator attended trainings of community-based restoration programs and worked with a local high school to integrate restoration activities into its curriculum.

**Ecosystem Restoration** - Coordinated several community projects that removed invasive plants and trash from the watershed, and collected native plant seed for future restoration projects.



# Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy

## Mill-Big Chico Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$192,099

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

### **Background**

Deer Creek is a pristine watershed that possesses one of California's few remaining populations of wild Spring-run Chinook salmon. In the southern portion of the watershed, farmers grow a variety of crops. Both wildlife and agriculture need water to survive and thrive. Consequently, water management is absolutely critical and requires a comprehensive, collaborative approach. Changes in land use contribute to erosion and runoff. The watershed is characterized by a diversity of natural resources and competing stakeholder interests. As the population increases, so will the challenges.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Worked on the Lower Deer Creek Restoration and Flood Management Plan. Introduced stakeholders to innovative and sustainable management techniques and approaches.
- ◆ Assisted with the East Tehama Fire Plan. Increased cooperation and enhanced communication on wildfire suppression and fuel reduction efforts in the upper watershed.
- ◆ Helped obtain a US Fish and Wildlife Service grant, which funds the installation of a fish ladder at the Cone-Kimball Diversion to improve passage for salmonids.



*A board member points to the China Slough confluence with the Sacramento River.*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** - Collaborated with other groups to form the Shasta-Tehama Water Education Coalition, which will address agricultural and urban runoff concerns and support monitoring efforts. Facilitated stakeholder meetings and worked with local governments and other agencies to improve coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.